

Live Stock and Dairy

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES WM. BURKETT,
Professor of Agriculture, N. C. A. & M. College, and Agri-
culturist North Carolina Experiment Station.

Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully an-
swered.

LICE ON CATTLE.

"I notice that my cattle have lice on them," writes a reader of The Progressive Farmer. "Is it too dangerous to give copious doses of sulphur at this season of the year, or is there something better?"

The sulphur will be good for the cattle, but of course too much can be fed. From one to six ounces can be given at a time.

The best way to get rid of lice on cattle is to spray them or wash with some good disinfectant like zenoleum, which is inexpensive, and two good washings with an interval of a week or ten days will do the business. I think it would be advisable to white-wash the inside of the stable, mixing with the white-wash some of the disinfectants we have just mentioned. This will kill the lice in the stable and make it more healthful in every way.

C. W. BURKETT.

Hog Pastures—III.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

The following crops, in addition to those mentioned last week, can be recommended as suitable for hog pasturage anywhere in North Carolina and throughout the cotton belt. The crops best for any particular locality depends upon the nature of the soil.

I.—JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE—*HELIANTHUS TUBEROSA*.

This is a perennial of the sun-flower family. The valuable part is the tuberous root which resembles the Irish potato. The yield is about twice that of Irish potatoes, and is much more certain as this crop has no serious disease or pest,—400 to 800 bushels is a common yield. This plant is much more hardy than Irish potatoes. Once planted it may remain in the ground from year to year, the hogs doing their own harvesting. Enough tubes are left by the hogs, to carry the plant over from year to year. The artichoke is planted from cuttings exactly as the Irish potato. The cuttings are usually planted in drill, about 4 x 4 feet, and 4 inches deep. The best time to plant is shortly before corn planting time. About 4 bushels will seed an acre. Seedsmen sell the tubus at from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per bushel.

The artichoke must be cultivated like corn during the summer. The tubers are formed only in the fall. The crop can be pastured from October 4th to March 1st. A good plan is to sow cow peas among the artichokes at last cultivation, or about July 1st. The Black or Everlasting peas are the best for this purpose.

II.—BERMUDA GRASS,—*CYNODON DACTYLON*.

Everybody knows Bermuda grass and how fond hogs are of its succulent and nutritious roots. There are few, if any, more wholesome or better foods for growing pigs. The best way to utilize a Bermuda pasture for hogs is to sow sand vetch or crimson clover in the grass in early fall—about September 1st. Keep the hogs off until the vetch or clover has got a good start. The vetch or clover will make winter and spring pasture and the grass summer pasture. Of course the hogs will get at the Bermuda roots even in winter. A well set pasture of this root will furnish a complete ration and all the hogs need. But not more than 12 pigs should be put on one acre.

III.—CASSAVA—*MANIHOT ALPI*.

Cassava—the sweet variety—is one of the heaviest yielders of large succulent roots. It is a tropical plant which belongs to the castor-oil bean family. It resembles the castor bean plant in its habit of growth. It is perennial in the

tropics, but is too tender to withstand our winters. It is about as tender as the sweet potato and must be treated in much the same way. Cassava is planted by cuttings of the stems—like tropical sugar cane. The roots are two to four feet long—and resemble sticks of stove wood. The yield is from 8 to 10 tons per acre on medium land, but yields of 16 tons per acre are common. Dry sandy soil only is suitable for cassava. This plant is perfectly wholesome and makes good food for man or beast. The roots rot quickly after being removed from the ground and also after being frozen. They should be heavily mulched with pine straw and left in the ground until wanted. Cassava is recommended only for the coast counties and dry sandy land.

Cassava cuttings can be obtained of any Florida seedsman or nursery man. The writer will furnish addresses to those who wish to send for a supply.

IV.—JOHNSON GRASS—(*SORGHUM HOLOPENSE*.)

Johnson grass makes even a better hog pasture than Bermuda, but it thrives only on rich land. The treatment advised for Bermuda is also the best for Johnson grass. (See above.)

V.—JAPAN CLOVER.—*LESPEDEZA STRIATA*.

The value of Japan clover for improving old and worn fields is well known. Its feeding value is very high. It is not desirable for pasturing horses, as it salivates, but for cattle, sheep and hogs, it is fine. One acre of fair land well set in Japan clover will yield at least two tons per acre if pastured closely. The best way to utilize a Japan clover field for a hog pasture is to sow Dwarf Essex rape seed on the clover in early fall—about September 1st. This will give winter grazing (rape) from Christmas to May 1st, and summer pasturage (clover) from May to September. If not too closely pastured both crops will re-seed themselves from year to year.

VI.—SAND VETCH—*VOID VILLOSA*.

For improving the soil there are few, if any, crops better than the sand vetch. It makes good hog pasturage. The hay is not well liked by horses or cows. Mules eat it, but are not fond of it. The yield is heavy, two to four tons hay per acre. This crop is very hardy. The best way to utilize it for hog pasture is to sow the seed in Bermuda sod about September 1st. The sod may be scarified with a heavy harrow, but this is not essential. About 25 pounds of seed per acre must be used. The seed costs about 10 cents per pound. But once established it reseeds itself from year to year like Japan clover.

VII.—CRIMSON CLOVER.—*TRIFOLIUM INCARNATUM*.

Everything said above of sand vetch applies equally as well to crimson clover. But the hay of the clover is more relished by stock. Clover may be seeded on Bermuda or other sod about September 1st. It will furnish grazing from Christmas to about May 1st. If the stock is then taken off a fair crop of seed can be obtained. Crimson clover does not like sand vetch and Japan clover re-seeds itself. It must be re-sown every fall. The native seed in the chaff is far superior to the cleaned seed sold by seedsmen. There is a local demand for seed in the hull far greater than the supply. It can be readily sold at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 cents per pound.

When seed in the chaff is sown on a Bermuda or other sod about 50 pounds per acre should be used. The mistake in sowing this seed is waiting too long in the fall. Any time after the middle of August will do. Seed sown in October does not grow high enough to make good winter pasture.

VIII.—BURR CLOVER —*MIDICAGO MACULATA*.

This is a species of lucerne. It is an annual. It is not considered equal to crimson clover for cow pasture, and is not suitable for sheep pasture on account of the burr-like seed-pods getting into the wool. For hog pasture this plant is equal to or better than crimson clover. It is very hardy,

makes its growth in fall and winter, and unlike crimson clover it re-seeds itself from year to year.

The seed may be sown either in chaff or cleaned. If cleaned seed is used sow on Bermuda sod about August 15 to September 15, twenty pounds per acre. All seedsmen sell this seed.

GERALD McCARTHY,

North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

A Word About Poultry Breeds and a Cholera Cure.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Of course I know that every poultry lover has his or her own favorite breed. Every breed has its own peculiar merits and also its defects. In no breed, I suppose, is combined all the good qualities alike. I speak of the two breeds that I am best acquainted with, the Plymouth Rocks and Leghorns. But if one keeps the Plymouth Rocks he should make it a point to sell off during the fall, at a time when they may be sold at a good price, all the old hens, and this may usually be done in September or October. It very seldom pays to keep old Plymouth Rock hens, and I suppose the same could be said of all the larger breeds. Old Plymouth Rock hens will lay but few eggs, and instead of turning the food into eggs, will almost invariably turn it into fat. This quality makes them one of the finest market fowls.

But if you want to keep Plymouth Rocks, and want them for eggs, you must have young hens, say from one to two years old. These, if properly fed and sheltered, make splendid winter layers. Still, I contend that the Leghorn is by far the best all-the-year-around layer. A Leghorn hen under favorable circumstances will lay well when she is four, five or sometimes six years old. Hence, the Leghorn is a much cheaper hen, and to the farmer, if he depends on eggs for his profit, is by far the better of the two breeds. Yet, if you are fond of chickens to eat keep some Plymouth Rocks for your table at least. There can be no better table fowl than the Plymouth Rock. If given a showing, it is, either young or old, always nice and fat and sweet and juicy, and the Leghorn can never compare with it there.

Thinking it may be of some use to some one, I will give my remedy for cholera in fowls. I have tried it repeatedly, and have never failed with it, either with young or old ones. It is Venetian red. It is cheap, simple and easily used. Give it in food, one or two tablespoonfuls to the quart of food, and if any are too ill to eat, or will not eat it because it looks too red, force them to eat some two or three times a day. For a grown turkey that is sick, give a teaspoonful three times per day until better, then lessen the dose. It can be made with bread and milk or water, in pills. For a chicken hen half that amount is a dose. It is good for young chickens with the bowel trouble. Quinine is a good stimulant to give to a flock that has been exposed to disease. A teaspoonful to a quart of feed once a day for a few days will often prevent the further spread of the disease in a flock, and sometimes cure those which are already afflicted, if not too far gone, but the dose should be a little heavier for these. Try this remedy and you will find it true.

J. M. KESTER.

Cleveland Co., N. C.

The Department of Agriculture is deliberating some information on the purity of commercial feed stuffs and finds that finely ground corn cobs are used to a considerable extent for adulteration. Instances are noted in Connecticut, once noted for its sale of wooden nutmegs, where corn cobs and corn bran have been mixed with mixed wheat feed stuffs and sold in packages, bearing, however, no label, nor statement of contents. A large number of analyses made by the New York officials show also the use of corn cobs in a number of licensed and unlicensed ready mixed feeds, and in one instance in "pure corn-meal." A number of proprietary feeds were found to be composed in part of oat hulls. "The markets," it is stated, "are offering many inferior feed stuffs, and the prices charged at present for commercial feeding stuffs often bear no relation to their chemical composition or feeding value. It therefore requires special care and intelligence to select feeds which shall be economical for the dairyman or feeder of other stock."